

CLAIMS

1. Method of distributing audio-visual information between a server (2) and at least one terminal (1) connected by means of bi-directional communication (3) to the server characterized in that the method comprises :

5 - a registration step for each terminal at the server in order to identify the terminal in a unique fashion and to register the type of terminal ;

10 - a step (402) of authentication of the terminal by the server on every connection of the terminal to the server ;

15 - a step (413) of downloading at least one selection of audio-visual information (406) chosen by the user of the terminal during its connection to the server, the format in which the selections of audio-visual information are transmitted being such that only the destination terminal is able to make use of it ;

 - a step of storing the use made of each selection of audio-visual information in a data base of the server.

20 2. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claim 1 characterized in that the use of a selection of audio-visual information comprises, either the running in real time of the audio-visual information on the destination terminal, or the storing of the audio-visual information for the purpose of running it on the destination terminal, or the running, in real time, of the audio-visual information, after storing the audio-visual information on the destination terminal.

30 3. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the authentication step (402) includes a step (407) of the

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terminal (1) sending stored information relating to the desired uses to be made of the audio-visual information downloaded onto the terminal (1).

5 4. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claim 3, characterized in that it comprises a step in which the server processes information stored or received and relating to the uses for the audio-visual information downloaded onto the terminal (1) in order to
10 determine the amount of royalties to be paid to each of the parties having rights over the audio-visual information.

15 5. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the registration step comprises a step of sending decoding and/or decryption means as a function of the format in which the audio-visual information will be transmitted to the terminal and which corresponds to the specified uses.

20 6. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the type of terminal defines the use which will be made of the audio-visual information on the terminal.

25 7. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it comprises a step of paying for the selections commanded, either during the authentication step or during the
30 choice of the user, or before the downloading step.

8. Method of distributing audio-visual information according to Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it comprises a step of storing on the terminal, statistical

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records concerning the use of the selections stored by the terminal and a step of sending, by the terminal, of information corresponding to the statistical records, during connection between the terminal and the server.

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9. Device for the distribution of audio-visual information comprising a server (2) including mass data storage means (23) that include audio-visual information for representing a plurality of musical and/or video selections, and at least one terminal (1) including data storage means (140) and a bi-directional communication link (3) with the server (2), the device being characterized in that the data storage means of the server (2) comprise an identification of each terminal defining the use of the audio-visual information transmitted to the terminal, each terminal (1) comprising means interactive with the user to permit the choice (121, 122) of at least one selection through the communication link (3) with the server (2) and means (13, 130) of running the information sent by the server (2) and representative of an audio-visual selection.

10. Device for the distribution of audio-visual information according to Claim 9, characterized in that each terminal (1.1.1 to 1.n.n₃) is connected, through a bi-directional link, to a multi-service server (4.1 to 4.n) also connected to the server (2) through a bi-directional link, each multi-service server (4.1 to 4.n) comprising means for transmitting, on the one hand, each message from the server (2) intended for the terminal (1.1.1 to 1.n.n₃) and, on the other hand, each message from the terminal (1.1.1 to 1.n.n₃) intended for the server (2).

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Processor DSP comprising means of decoding audio-visual information transmitted by the server in order to provide digital information, a digital-analog converter, to at least one output for digital information to data storage means and command means for each digital output in order to authorize or not to authorize the storage of the digital information.

17. Device for the distribution of audio-visual information according to claims 9 to 16, characterized in that means interactive (121, 122) comprising selection means including a pointer and or a touch screen associated with displays means for displaying at least one dialogue screen, and/or a vocal command system associated with audio reproduction means for restituting at least one vocal message.

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